

March 10, 2016  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Chairman Dan Gitler.

"This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 11, 2015"

Members:                Jason Bond  
                              Dan Gitler  
                              Sean Johnson (absent)  
                              Jim Gorman  
                              John Madden, liaison

Secretary                Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Jeffery Licato, 800 Beechwood Avenue attended the meeting and indicated that he purchased this property in December and it had a sewer backup and he had to pay \$2700 for the repair, and the contractor found tree roots at the site. Mr. Licato is worried about trees causing damage to new water line and any future damage that the roots may cause after he put all this money into this repair. Mr. Gitler explained that trees don't know that there is water in a water line, but they find when the water line is leaking and that is where they get in. The root system finds a hole and expands. The old cast iron lines will rot and leak. The Commission agreed to go out to look at the black locust tree in the front of this property. Also the commission spoke to Mr. Licato about planting additional trees on his property. He stated that he would consider planting on the corner where the Oak tree was, and would call the secretary if he would like to be put on the planting list.

Seeing that there was no further public participation, Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gorman made a motion to approve the February 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to accept the February, 2016 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications

1. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the shade tree in the front of this property that had a blue ribbon and resident feels is dead.
2. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Bond will check the tree on the side of his property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
3. 119 Green Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that residents feels is dead and report back.

#### Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission recommended that a re-inspection should be done in the Spring to make an accurate assessment.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind stump, but will go out in the Spring to check on the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 105 Zoar Place – Commission agreed to remove this mulberry tree
4. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond met with Councilman Madden and discussed the commission's request to increase the fines when removing trees on the borough right-of-way without permission of the Shade Tree Commission. Councilman Madden will bring this request to the council to discuss further. Also, with regard to that issue the Commission discussed the two trees that were removed at 12 Woodrow Avenue without Shade Tree approval and also the trees at 417 Union Avenue (Property that was destroyed by fire). The commission will notify Councilman Madden that they would like to enforce the ordinance with regarding to the Woodrow Avenue trees, and also be sure that once the house on Union Avenue is demolished that the contractor take a tree permit out for the trees that were removed at that location, and per the ordinance either replace the trees or collect the funds required in the ordinance which would be put in the tree replacement fund.
2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond discussed the meeting that was held last week with the Council Liaison and Mr. Gitler regarding this management plan. Mr. Gitler and Mr. Bond discussed the funds that were required for training and CEU's in order to comply with this plan, and also the DPW employee that would be designated to be core trained. Mr. Gitler will forward to Mr. Madden the financial information that is required to move forward with this plan, so that he can address the appropriate personnel. The Commission intends to discuss further and accept the Tree Management Plan at the April 14, 2016 Shade Tree Meeting.

#### New Business

1. Planting of Arbor Day Tree – Commission discussed planting a Southern Magnolia Tree for Arbor Day in the front of Victor Crowell Park, adjacent to the 911 Memorial in the grassy area. Mr. Gorman will stake out the location to move forward with planting at this location.
2. New Quotes for Tree Planting for Spring, 2016 – Commission discussed the tree planting for 2016. The Commission will solicit for quotes for planting 30 trees (Spring & Fall) for 2016. The Purchasing Agent will approve before this is done.
3. Also, Mr. Bond requested that the Commission plant 3 trees to the left of 354 Grant Avenue for Spring planting, as it is a dead space.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
APRIL 14, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

